



Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

Tony Evers, Governor | Mary M. Kolar, Secretary

October 5, 2020

Dear Union Grove Members, Friends, and Family:

As you have all likely seen on the news, more than 130,000 people in this state have tested positive for COVID-19 since the virus first appeared last spring. Today, hospitalizations for COVID-19 are at record levels and rural and urban hospitals across this state are approaching capacity. As you know, the people who live at our Homes are among the most vulnerable citizens given their age, underlying conditions, and the physical environment in which they live. Again, I implore you all to do everything in your power to help prevent the spread of this dangerous virus.

Here at Union Grove, we began a new round of universal testing last week. With about 80 percent of the test results returned, we have had **one staff** person test positive for COVID-19. Unfortunately, this positive test coincides with our plan to implement our Safe Visits plan. To be allowed to have visitors, we must not have any staff or members with COVID-19 in our facility for 14 days. As soon as we meet this requirement, we will send out the information about how to schedule your safe visit.

This week we will begin implementing our plan to provide some communications digitally – such as the Safe Visits plan when we are able - to those who have provided us their email. If you have not yet shared your email with us, I encourage you to visit www.WisVetsEmail.com and provide us with your name, email address, and/or cell phone number. This will allow us to send future updates such as these to you via email or text. Initially, this will not replace paper communications, but we want to be able to provide these updates to you as quickly as possible. We will eventually be transitioning away from paper communications.

Given that the number of COVID-19 cases in the state continues to rise and COVID-19 activity in Racine County remains high, preventing the spread of the coronavirus is a challenge, but one that I think we can overcome with your help. Again, I cannot stress enough the importance of following the guidance of health officials to continue to stay home as much as possible, wear a mask when out and maintain at least six feet from others, and wash our hands frequently.

Sincerely,

Erin Johnston, NHA
Commandant